

# DO YOU KNOW?

**Who was the first woman to serve in the Missouri Senate? How many Democrats and Republicans are in the Missouri Senate? What was one of the longest bills ever introduced in the Missouri Senate?**

**The answers to these questions and other facts about the Senate follow.**

1. Missouri's 34 state senators hail from a variety of diverse backgrounds including nine in business, four in law, one in education, six in agribusiness, one in finance, five in public service, one in real estate, one in auto sales and one in medicine.
2. Twenty-nine current state senators served previously in the Missouri House of Representatives.
3. The average age of those currently serving in the Missouri Senate is 50.
4. Senator Michael Kinney was the oldest to serve in the Missouri Senate. Elected in 1912 and retiring in 1968 at the age of 93, Sen. Kinney also served the longest time in the Missouri Senate.
5. Elected in 1960, Senator Theodore McNeal was Missouri's first African-American state senator. Three African-Americans currently serve in the Missouri Senate.
6. Missouri's first woman state senator, Mary Gant, served from 1972 until 1980. Six women currently serve in the Missouri Senate.
7. Elected in 1977, Senator Gwen Giles was Missouri's first African-American woman state senator.
8. Senator J. O. Morrison and Sen. James L. Mathewson were the longest serving state senate presidents pro tem in Missouri history. They each served for eight years.
9. At least 44 state senators have attained higher statewide office or become a U.S. senator or congressman for Missouri.
10. More than half of Missouri's state senators reside in one of the state's three largest metropolitan areas – Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield.
11. In 2001, the Republican party won the Missouri Senate majority for the first time since 1948. The current party split in the Missouri Senate is 23 Republicans and 11 Democrats.
12. The geographic size of Missouri's 34 state senatorial districts ranges from a few square miles in some urban areas to 16 counties in some rural areas.
13. Each state senator represents a district comprised of approximately 160,000 Missourians.
14. The Missouri Senate meets each year from early January to mid-May for the regular legislative session. In the weeks during this time, the Missouri Senate typically meets from mid-afternoon Mondays to mid-afternoon Thursdays. (The same holds true for the Missouri House of Representatives.)
15. Missouri state senators earn an annual salary of about \$31,350.
16. There are currently 16 standing committees in the Missouri Senate.
17. With rare exception, all Missouri Senate chamber proceedings, committee meetings and committee hearings are open to the public and the media.
18. The shortest bill introduced in the Missouri Senate was one line long. One of the longest bills introduced was Senate Bill No. 52 (897 pages) in 1993.
19. Taxes, education, healthcare and crime are some of the most debated subjects in the Missouri Senate.
20. State lawmakers considered more than 1,755 bills and resolutions in 2004.

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## MEMBERS OF THE MISSOURI SENATE 93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DIST.</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>ROOM</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Alter, Bill	22	751-1492	429	1800 Gravois Rd., High Ridge 63049
Barnitz, Frank A.	16	751-2108	425	P.O. Box 104, Lake Spring 65532
Bartle, Matt	8	751-1464	431	10817 Wildflower Dr., Lee's Summit 64086
Bray, Joan	24	751-2514	434	7120 Washington Ave, St. Louis 63130
Callahan, Victor	11	751-3074	328	132 East Short, Independence 64050
Cauthorn, John	18	751-6858	416	23712 Audrain Rd. 364, Mexico 65265
Champion, Norma	30	751-2583	219	3609 S. Broadway, Springfield 65807
Clemens, Dan	20	751-4008	418	358 Bluestem Rd., Marshfield 65706
Coleman, Maida J.	5	751-2606	220	P.O. Box 771425, St. Louis 63177
Crowell, Jason G.	27	751-2459	323	P.O. Box 1269, Cape Girardeau 63702
Days, Rita Heard	14	751-4106	427	3083 Bellerive Dr., St. Louis 63121
Dolan, Jon	2	751-4964	331A	#3 Rudder Ct., Lake St. Louis 63367
Dougherty, Patrick	4	751-3599	333	4031 Parker Ave., St. Louis 63116
Engler, Kevin	3	751-3455	428	108 W. Columbia, Farmington 63640
Gibbons, Michael R.	15	751-2853	326	148 W. Adams, Kirkwood 63122
Graham, Chuck	19	751-2162	329	102 W. Green Meadows, Columbia 65203
Green, Timothy P.	13	751-2420	330	12100 Aragan, St. Louis 63138
Griesheimer, John	26	751-3678	227	33 Oxford Dr., Washington 63090
Gross, Chuck	23	751-8635	423	3019 Westborough Ct., St. Charles 63301
Kennedy, Harry	1	751-2126	226	4959 Sutherland, St. Louis 63109
Klindt, David	12	751-1415	319	P.O. Box 147, Bethany 64424
Koster, Chris	31	751-1430	225	P.O. Box 9, Harrisonville 64701
Loudon, John	7	751-9763	422	221 Pleasant Grove Drive, Ballwin 63011
Mayer, Robert	25	751-3859	331	P.O. Box 571, Dexter 63841
Nodler, Gary	32	751-2306	433	308 Morgan Ct., Joplin 64801
Purgason, Chuck	33	751-1882	420	2680 Rd 7360, Caulfield 65626
Ridgeway, Luann	17	751-2547	419	19405 Platte County Line Rd., Smithville 64089
Scott, Delbert	28	751-8793	221	P.O. Box 147, Lowry City 64763
Shields, Charles W.	34	751-9476	320	47 SE Erin Ct., St. Joseph 64507
Stouffer, Bill	21	751-1507	332	Rt. 4, Box 1073, Napton 65340
Taylor, Larry Gene	29	751-9806	426	P.O. Box 595, Hwy. 39, Shell Knob 65747
Vogel, Carl	6	751-2076	321	311 Constitution, Jefferson City 65109
Wheeler, Charles	10	751-2788	334	830 W. 53rd St., Kansas City 64112
Wilson, Yvonne S.	9	751-9758	421	4545 E. 53rd St., Kansas City 64130

## INTERESTING FACTS

## ABOUT THE



## MISSOURI STATE SENATE